that one often hears that Government is unresponsive to the demands of the people's representatives.

Federation.

29. I shall now conclude my address with a few words on the problem of Indian Federation. During the period under review the question of accession of the State to the All-India Federation was closely scrutinised. A Special Officer was appointed to study the problem and tender advice to Government. I had also the benefit of attending the various meetings convened from time to time by the Chamber of Princes. I was invited to become a member of the Informal Committee of Ministers presided over by the Rt. Hon'ble Sir Akbar Hydari and I had also the privilege of working as a member of the Constitution Committee presided over by His Highness the Maharajadhiraj of Patiala. My attendance at these meetings along with our Legal Adviser was of great benefit. The State got the benefit of legal opinions obtained from eminent counsels like Sir Walter Monckton, Mr. Morgan, K. C. and Judge Wadhams. Besides these, the collective opinion of experienced statesmen in charge of the administration of the Indian States on matters common to the States as a whole was also available to me in the study of this problem. After collecting all these materials Government decided to consult representative leaders of public opinion in the State before submitting the final memorandum to the Government of India. Accordingly a non-official committee of 9 members was constituted and all the relevant materials relating to the study of the problem of Federation were placed before this committee. On every material point on which the Government had to express their point of view the opinion of the non-official committee was taken and the final memorandum which we sent to the Government of India is based entirely on the advice tendered by the non-official committee. The point of view of the State on the question of Federation may therefore be said to represent not merely the point of view of the Government but of the representatives of the people as well. Hon'ble Members who served on that committee will bear me out when I say that there was no conflict between these two points of view. In fact, there cannot possibly be any conflict, because the question that we had to deal with related to safeguarding the interests of the State on which there cannot be much diversity of opinion. The answer of the Government of India on the reservations and safeguards that we have made is now awaited before a final decision is taken whether the State will join the All-India Federation.

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30. A great deal of misconception prevailed at one time about the possible results of joining the Federation. Serious apprehensions were expressed that by joining the Federation the State will lose its share of the Customs Revenue and the proceeds of income-tax. These apprehensions are due to an inadequate study of the problem of Federation. We have made it plain that the State will not lose any of its present revenues by joining the Federation, and that, apart from this, the vital interests of the State are adequately safeguarded. In spite of these assurances oft repeated, the question is still asked in certain quarters what the State will gain by joining the Federation. Those who approach the problem from the point of view of profit and loss to individual States show a very inadequate appreciation of the implications of the problem of Federation. The question of an All-India Federation is to be looked at not from the point of view of profit or loss to an individual unit, but from the point of view of what it means to India at large. Co-ordination of efforts for a joint purpose necessarily involves sacrifices on the part of those who join together. As Indians, whether we are subjects of a State or of a Province in British India, the question that we have to ask ourselves in approaching this problem is whether India will stand to gain by bringing into existence an All-India Federation and whether the sacrifices that each one of us will necessarily have to make is commensurate with our own capacity and the requirements of the common cause. Even a few years ago the evolution of the Indian Constitution on a federal basis in which the Indian States will form an integral part was considered as a dream not within the realm of practical politics. The declaration of the spokesmen of the Indian Princes at the First Round Table Conference that the States were prepared to join a federal scheme on certain conditions was a turning point in India's political history and made possible what was considered to be only an ideal. The subsequent stages of the protracted conferences and negotiations are well known to the public. It now remains for statesmen both in British India and in the Indian States to make up their mind whether they will join together for bringing about this great political consummation. It has been stated in public of late that many of the Indian Princes are hesitant and that many are laying down impossible conditions. From my own observation of the attitude of the leading Rulers of Indian States I can confidently assert that there is a genuine desire on the part of these great patriots to do everything that lies in their power to achieve the political unity of India in the form of an All-India Federation. It should not be

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forgotten that if there is a dissentient voice heard amidst the Princely Order, there is an equally jarring note sounded by some British Indian politicians. There are those who have proclaimed that the entry of the Indian States into the federal scheme will act as a drag on the political progress of India. While I do not question the sincerity of those who entertain these apprehensions, I make bold to say that there is no ground for such apprehension. It is in the establishment of a Federation alone that there is hope of realising the political unity of India in a real sense. The difference between British India and Indian India is an artificial one. Far from the Indian States being a drag on the political progress of India, the postponement of the establishment of Federation and the isolation of Indian States as a separate entity will be the greatest drag on the achievement of political unity in India. It is impossible even to conceive of a self-governing India in the real sense without the Indian States forming an integral part of the whole scheme. Every obstacle thrown in the way of the establishment of the Federal Constitution is an obstacle in the achievement of political unity in India. Fortunately for us the times are propitious. A few months back the political impasse that was created in six of the Indian Provinces cast a gloom over the whole political field and created grave doubts whether Federation would become an accomplished fact. Thanks to the statesmanship of those guiding the policy of the Indian National Congress, the assumption of responsibility by this great political party in the six Provinces has restored normality in the political conditions of India and has made possible the early inauguration of the Federal Constitution in the Centre. Let us therefore realise that every contribution that we make, however little it might be, towards the building up of this great structure of the Indian Federation will be an offering at the alter of the Mother Country.

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Questions and Answers.

Departments—Amalgamation of.

1. **Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan** *(Wadakkancheri)*.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) whether they have any scheme for the amalgamation of any other departments than those that were already amalgamated ;

(b) if so, which they are?